

Michael J. Fox goes back to the future... as a girl!

Foxy

MICHAEL J. FOX takes a compliment about his legs with great enthusiasm. "You really think I've got great gams?" he asks, referring to his stint in a mini-skirt for *Back To The Future II*.

But, on a more serious note, he admits playing his own daughter in scenes from the long-awaited movie, released in Australia on December 7, was one of the most his embarrassing experiences.

"When I got out in front of the crew dressed like a girl, it took me an hour to stop myself blushing," Fox admits. Then he adds, tongue in cheek: "But the general consensus was that I was cute!"

While producers are keen not to give away too much of the plot — which reunites time travellers Marty McFly (Fox) and the eccentric Doc Brown (Christopher Lloyd) — Fox sheepishly admits that playing a girl was only one of four characters he played.

The dramatic change in character, which required Fox to wear a dress, full wig and make-up and realistically talk and walk like a teenage girl, took place in a scene where Marty travels to 2015 and sees a 47-year-old Marty McFly sitting down to dinner with his teenage children, Marty jnr and Marlene — all played by Fox!

In addition, Fox played himself twice in several other scenes, when he returns to 1955 and runs into his "other" self, already there from the last film. The realistic process of putting all his characters on the same screen was done with new technology known as Vista Glide.

"Because of the technology used to put all the characters I play together on the one screen, I was always all of them on the same day," Fox explains, adding that the transformations required took more than four hours' make-up.

As far as playing a girl, Fox explains: "We wanted to have a teenage girl that looked like me and this seemed the only viable option."

"The challenging part is that the joke is no joke. It is not like Tony Curtis in *Some Like It Hot* because there's no 'drag' consciousness. I felt completely ridiculous but I could approach it like a character because I was supposed to really be a girl and not just a guy dressed up

as a girl!"

Back To The Future, Fox's first successful film after his television success in *Family Ties*, became the top-grossing movie of 1985, earning more than \$350 million worldwide.

Producers came up with so much good material for a sequel that two follow-up movies were made back to back. The final instalment, *Back To The Future III*, which takes Marty and Doc to the Old West, opens in six months.

But Fox has had more meaningful changes in his life than the stardom that his TV and movie projects have brought him.

The boyish-looking star, 28, married actress Tracy Pollan in 1988 and the couple had their first child, Sam Michael Fox, on May 30, 1989 — during the shooting of *Back To The Future II*.

Despite his gruelling schedule, accentuated by his wife's pregnancy and the fact that Fox was winding up his final season on *Family Ties*, the actor was enthusiastic about returning to the role.

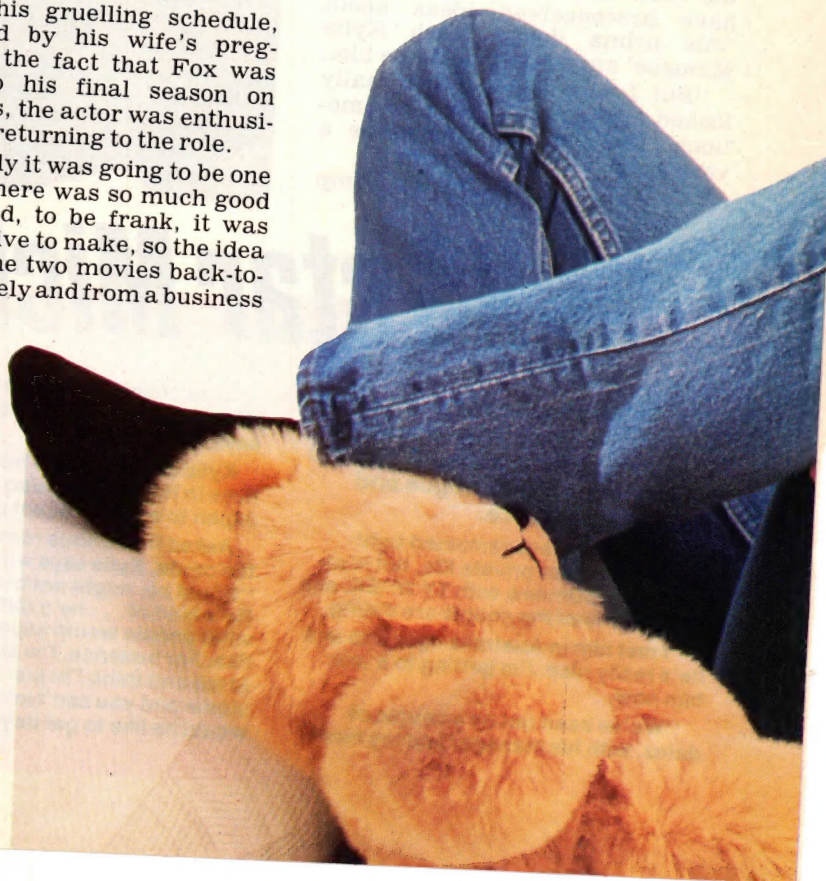
"Originally it was going to be one movie but there was so much good material and, to be frank, it was very expensive to make, so the idea of making the two movies back-to-back creatively and from a business

point of view was the only sound decision to make," Fox says.

"Emotionally and personally, my wife and I had planned the birth of our son around the completion of *Part II* so initially it was not my favorite thing in the world that I was going to be in the middle of these movies when my son was born. But once we got into it, it all plays like one movie to me and it seems weird that I'm still working on the final instalment but part of the film is already opening."

To ensure that he was able to be present at the birth of his first child, Fox reveals that he made special plans.

"I had a provision in my contract that the moment my wife went into labor, I was off work and then for a



Lady!

week after," he explains.

With the huge financial successes afforded by hits such as *Back To The Future*, Fox can now afford to sit back and let his own future take care of itself.

"People talk about image and what movies you want to make but I've got no idea what will happen to my career beyond my next movie.

"Given the TV show and some other things, unless Tracy and I live like Howard Hughes, we're going to live okay so I just try to take one project at a time," he says. "I'd be delighted if 20 years from now I ended up as a writer or something different because it would mean my life didn't follow a safe path."

*From Jenny Cooney
in Los Angeles*

Main picture: Timothy White/Oynx



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